How about a story about a Pioneer 1 whose family had lived on Pioneer Station for generations, never setting foot on a planet, but who turn from a lower snowball, to accelerating, to accelerating with giant pyramid city-states.

My family were never supposed to be here. We genetically modify and clone cells and nurture life in the darkness.

We were a fleet of commercial fishing vessels.

It could be decades, even over the years. But we're not supposed to be here. We're not supposed to exist. It's night time, he's in bed. He's asleep. I'm awake. Something is happening in orbit. Small metal cargo pods and cargo ships are in the dock. And the crew are loading them.

Now, that's a story worth telling. Generation ships.

Sort of. Maybe even Generation Ships.

Because they were the ecosystem into being—

Ecosystem into being—

Ecosystem into being—

Ecosystem into being—

And so was the will.

Anon's Great Grandfather didn't look like a pioneer. He looked like a fisherman. He looked like a man who had had to be covered up with a lot of clothes. He looked like a man who had had to put on a lot of Jonan pubic to one generations ago.

They didn't terraform. They genetically modified. They cloned.

Genetically modified cells, cloned cells, cultivated in the plankton designed to kickstart the ecosystem. And it was the family's will to live. And the family's will to survive. And the family's will to adapt.

Act I – 2173: Fleet Charter Signed

By the late 2150s, Anon's great-grandfather's fleet was a familiar sight in the outer reaches of the Sol system. They weren't explorers in the romantic sense—they were **survivalists**, working up to the edge of what their ships could handle, always with one eye on the next safe harbor.

The corporations came next. So did CEPT. But that's the sequel of sorts.

He watched the tides shift. Watched the ice creep closer, then retreat. Watched a child's shell into a typhoon. Watched his own children grow old on the same deck they were born on. Watched his daughter get consecrated into the Pioneer Station Orthodox Church.

Still, he stayed.

Final Scene – 2584.07.26, Nightfall

The ocean was calm.

Anon's son, Pio Lucia Orsh, twisted gently, sonar pinging softly. He'd been tracking the same pod of whales for days, ever since the outer dock ran, cage of a new generation of fish. He'd never seen anything like it in his life.

And the sky was on fire.

Above him, real stars, but **gods and goddesses** moved among each other again. Orbital mechanics, but not the kind he'd learned from his father and Great-Grandma. 2584's flipping, and the sky is full of ships, and the ships are moving according of silent light. Alien constellations, alien constellations, their forms shifting in ways that made no sense.

And then—

A whale.

It grew slowly. Like a second moon. And it **disintegrated**, the circle of a ship, a ship, a ship,